

From: Shawn Yarbrough
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am a professional computer programmer who has been negatively affected in the past by Microsoft's predatory and illegal business practices. I wish to comment on the Proposed Final Judgement (PFJ) regarding the U.S. vs. Microsoft case.

Although the PFJ is filled with problems that will allow Microsoft to avoid most of it's intended effects, I wish to point out one of the very worst problems: Microsoft is currently able to offer different prices for Windows to different customers. This allows Microsoft to use a variety of monopoly tactics to reward OEMs and distributors who support the Microsoft monopoly and to retaliate against those who don't (i.e. by raising prices only for those who don't).

One possible solution to this problem is simple and elegant: require Microsoft to sell Windows at a uniform price to any and all interested customers. Microsoft could still offer discounts for volume buyers but would have to offer the exact same price to all customers desiring to buy any given number of copies of Windows. Of course "hidden discounts" such as rebates or other financial incentives (especially discounts on other Microsoft products) would have to be disallowed.

This is only one example of something that is wrong with the PFJ. There are (at least) dozens of other major problems. Because of this, I oppose the current PFJ and I sincerely hope that a better settlement will be proposed. Microsoft deserves no leniency in this case.

Thanks for your time,

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